

Claims:

1. A coating (8), particularly for a cutting tool,  
comprising

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a metallic hard material layer (MH) as a wear-  
protection layer (9) and

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a separating layer (11) applied at least to one  
portion of the wear-protection layer (9).

2. The coating as defined in claim 1, characterized in  
that on the separating layer (11) a top layer (12)  
is disposed which is preferably a decorative layer.

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3. The coating as defined in claim 2, characterized in  
that the top layer (12) has a color which  
perceptively differs from the color of the wear-  
protection layer (9).

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4. The coating as defined in claim 2, characterized in  
that the top layer (12) is a ZrC, CrC, ZrN, CrN,  
TiN, a TiC, a HfC or a HfN layer.

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5. The coating as defined in claim 2, characterized in  
that the top layer (12) has a metallic-crystalline  
structure.

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6. The coating as defined in claim 1, characterized in  
that the separating layer (11) has a structure which  
is not metallic-crystalline.

7. The coating as defined in claim 1, characterized in  
that the separating layer (11) is an oxide layer

containing at least one metal of a side group of the chemical periodic system of elements.

- 5 8. The coating as defined in claim 7, characterized in that the metal (M) is an element of the IV<sup>th</sup> side group and is preferably titanium or zirconium.
9. The coating as defined in claim 7, characterized in that the metal (M) is an element of the V<sup>th</sup> side  
10 group.
10. The coating as defined in claim 1, characterized in that the separating layer (11) contains or is a chemical compound with a preponderantly covalent  
15 bond.
11. The coating as defined in claim 1, characterized in that the separating layer (11) is strongly non-stoichiometrically composed.  
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12. The coating as defined in claim 1, characterized in that the separating layer (11) is a strongly stressed layer.
- 25 13. The coating as defined in claim 1, characterized in that the separating layer (11) has an inner stress which significantly differs from the inner stress of the wear-protection layer and the top layer (12).
- 30 14. The coating as defined in claim 1, characterized in that the separating layer is a DLC layer.
15. The coating as defined in claim 1, characterized in that the separating layer is an MoS<sub>2</sub> layer.

16. The coating as defined in claim 1, characterized in that the wear-protection layer (9) is a TiAlN layer or a CrAlN layer.

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17. The coating as defined in claim 1, characterized in that the wear-protection layer (9) has a single-layer structure.

10 18. The coating as defined in claim 1, characterized in that the wear-protection layer (9) has a multi-layer structure.

19. A cutting tool, comprising

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a basic body (7) made of a hard material and

a coating (8) which is applied to the basic body (7) and whose structure is defined in one of the foregoing claims.

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20. A cutting tool as defined in claim 19, characterized in that the wear-protection layer (9) is provided at least on a clearance surface (3) and at least on a rake surface (4), while the top layer (12) does not cover or only partially covers the clearance surface (3) and/or the rake surface (2).

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21. A method of making a cutting tool, first applying in a PVD coating process a coating to a basic body (7) in a layer sequence according to one of claims 1 to 18, and subsequently removing the top layer (12) from selected upper surface portions by a mechanical abrading process.

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22. The method as defined in claim 21, characterized in that the top layer (12) is removed by a sandblasting process.

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23. The method as defined in claim 21, characterized in that all the layers of the coating (8) are applied in a single PVD process.